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ASSASSIN'S CREED





JAN '16
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Samuel Del



JAN '16
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ASSASSIN'S CREED



CORREY NUNES



ASSASSIN'S CREED®

+ TRIAL BY FIRE

Tom Stoddard is at a loss. He finds himself in Salem, on a mission like no other. He and Jennifer Querry have discovered their true goal is to save a little girl called Dorothy from the hands of the Templars.

With an angry mob descending, Charlotte realises Tom is faced with choices he never thought he'd have to make, and has to decide what kind of man, and what kind of Assassin, he really is...

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BEGONE,
DEVIL!

STODDARD!

MY FATHER WAS A
MAN WHO RESPECTED
THE NOTION THAT THE
WORLD HAS RULES.

IT CAME FROM BEING A
FARMER AND SEEING
HOW THE LAND OBEYED
NATURE'S ORDER.



IN THAT SENSE HE WOULD HAVE APPROVED OF THE STRANGE CONTRADICTION THAT IS MY LIFE AS AN ASSASSIN.



THE BROTHERHOOD HAS THE DEADLIEST MEN AND WOMEN HISTORY HAS EVER KNOWN.



YET WE HAVE AN UNBREAKABLE COMMITMENT TO A CREED THAT FORESWEARS US FROM SLAYING THE INNOCENT. EVEN THOSE WHO WOULD KILL US.



WITHOUT THE STRUCTURE THE CREED BRINGS, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE BROTHERHOOD TO KNOW IF WE BRING MORE GOOD THAN HARM TO THIS WORLD.

AUUUGH!

RULES. MY TIME WITH MY FATHER WAS SHORT, AND OFT HARSH, BUT HE INSTILLED IN ME THAT THEY MUST BE RESPECTED.

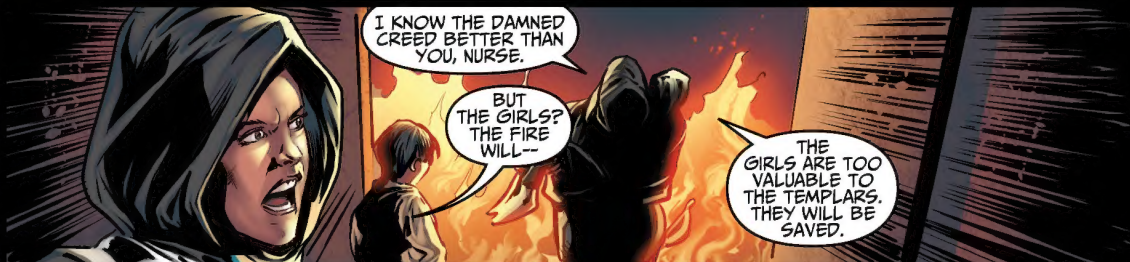


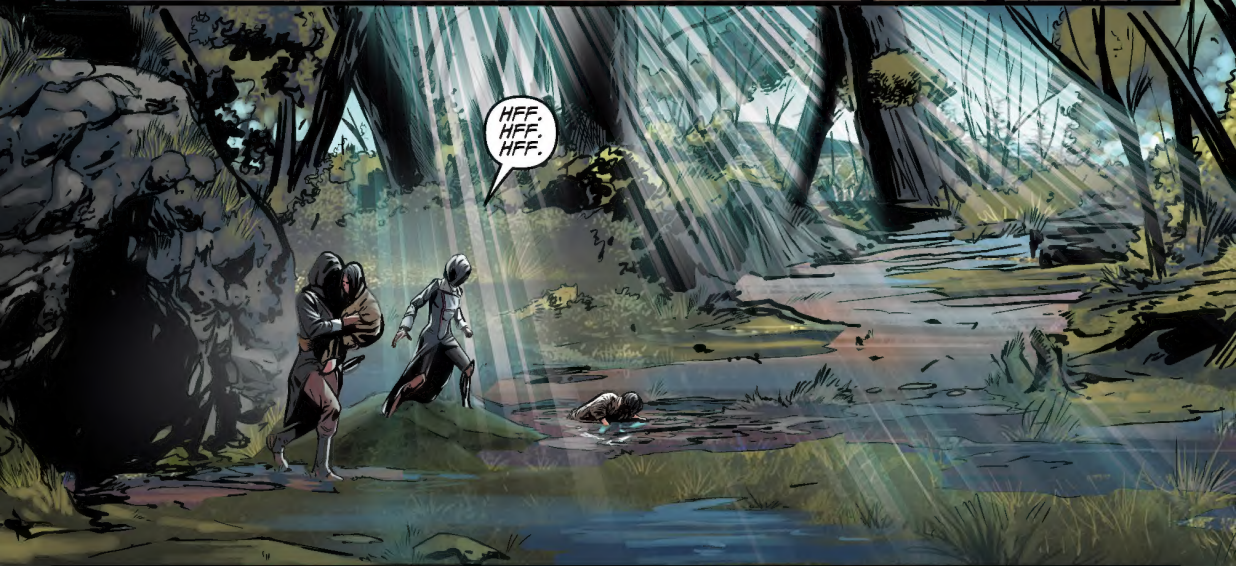
SOMETIMES I WISH I HAD NOT LISTENED TO HIM SO CLOSELY.

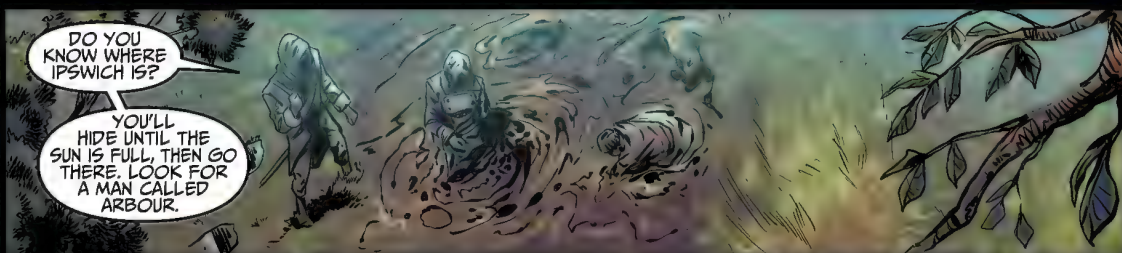
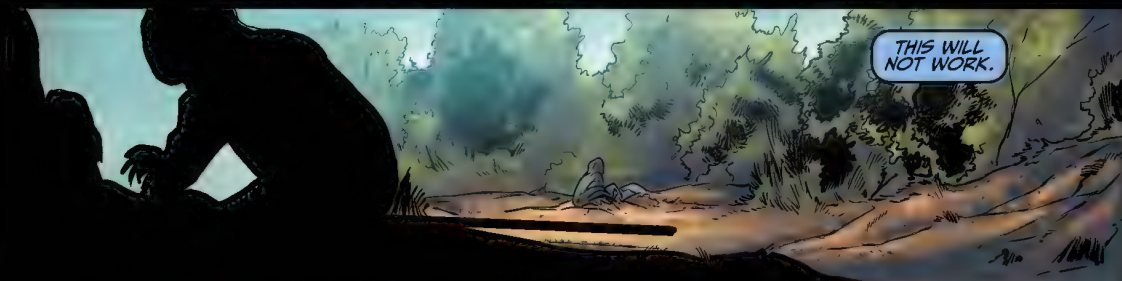
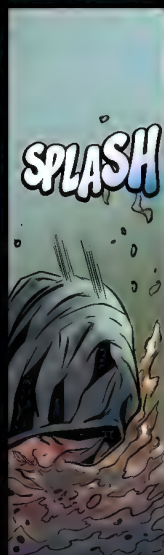
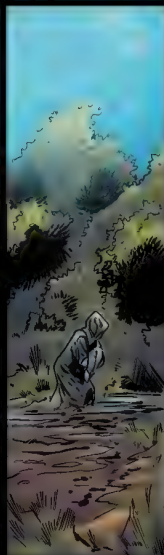
NURSE!













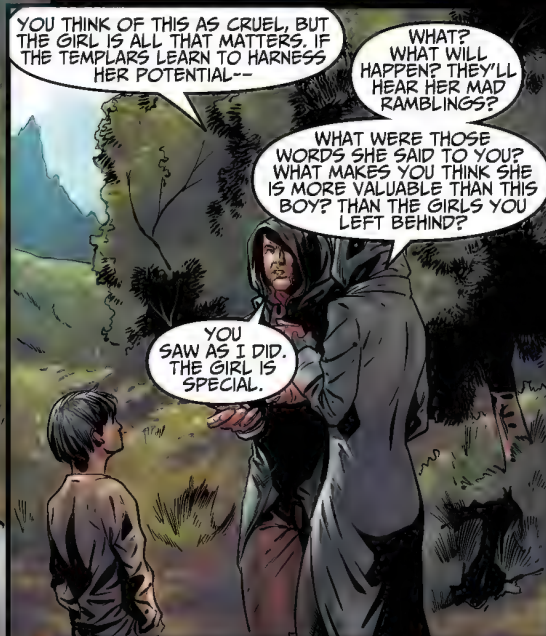
WE
NEED TO
LEAVE
HIM.

LEAVE HIM?
STODDARD, HE'S
JUST A LITTLE
BOY!



A LITTLE BOY
HOLDING US BACK,
PUTTING THIS GIRL'S
LIFE IN DANGER.

YOU CAN'T CARRY
HIM, AND I CAN'T TAKE
BOTH. NOT IF WE WANT TO
STAY AHEAD OF PARRIS.



YOU THINK OF THIS AS CRUEL, BUT
THE GIRL IS ALL THAT MATTERS. IF
THE TEMPLARS LEARN TO HARNESS
HER POTENTIAL--

WHAT?
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN? THEY'LL
HEAR HER MAD
RAMBLINGS?

WHAT WERE THOSE
WORDS SHE SAID TO YOU?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE
IS MORE VALUABLE THAN THIS
BOY? THAN THE GIRLS YOU
LEFT BEHIND?

YOU
SAW AS I DID.
THE GIRL IS
SPECIAL.



WE WERE TASKED TO TAKE
A GREAT POWER FROM THE
TEMPLARS HANDS. AND I WILL
DO SO, EVEN IF IT COSTS
A HUNDRED LITTLE BOYS.
IT WILL SAVE TEN-FOLD
THAT NUMBER.

WHAT
UNFORGIVING ROCK
WERE YOU FASHIONED
FROM? I JOINED THE
BROTHERHOOD FOR A
REASON: THAT HUMANITY -
ALL HUMANITY - MUST
BE FREE.

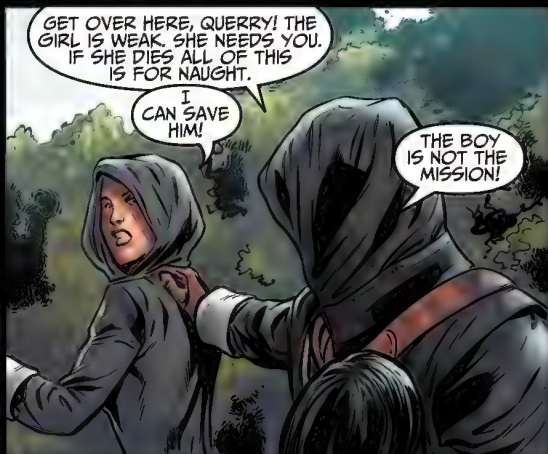
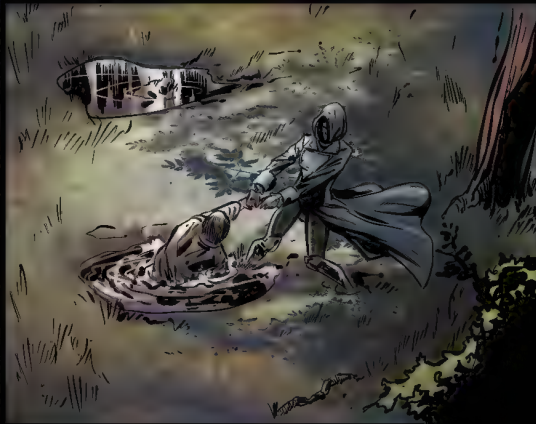
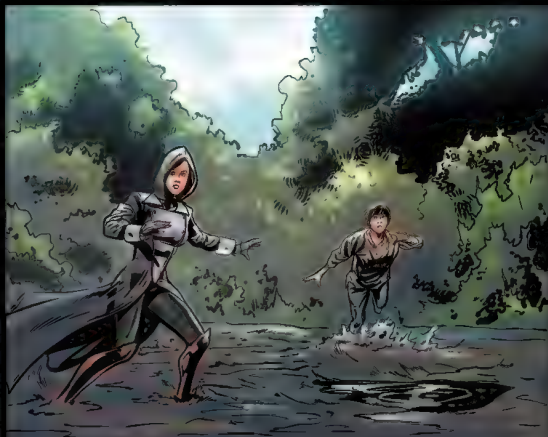
I MAY NOT
BE A FIGHTER, BUT
I BELIEVE IN THAT
BATTLE.

ANY MAN WHO
LEAVES A CHILD
TO DIE, FIGHTS FOR
NOTHING.

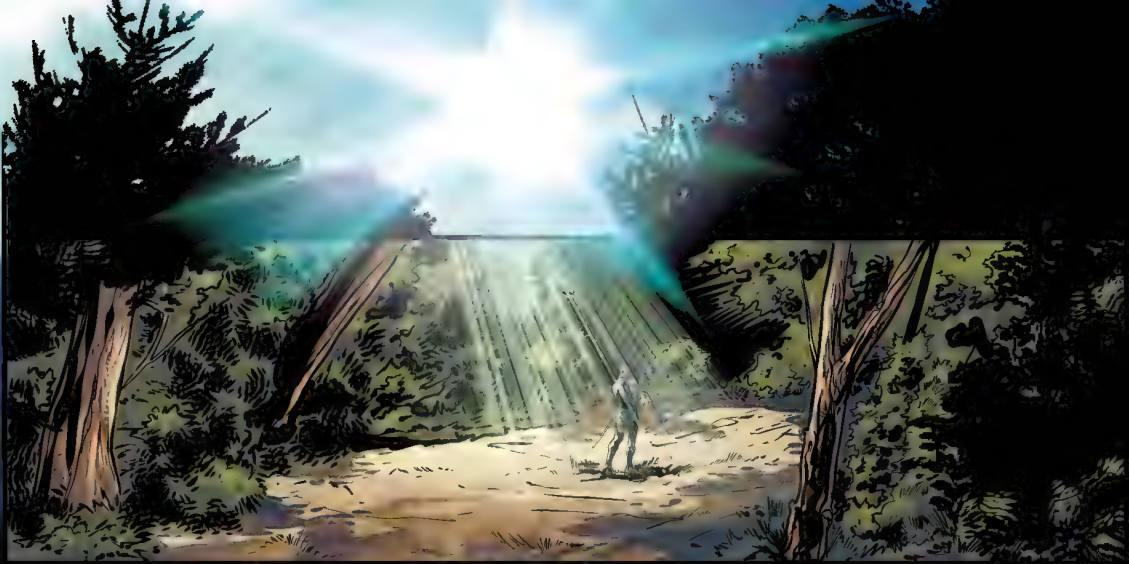


"WELL PLAYED, SISTER.
THAT SHUT HIM UP."

BANG







DANTE WROTE THAT IF THE PRESENT WORLD WENT ASTRAY THE CAUSE WAS WITHIN US. THAT WE HAD TO LOOK INWARD.

"WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?"

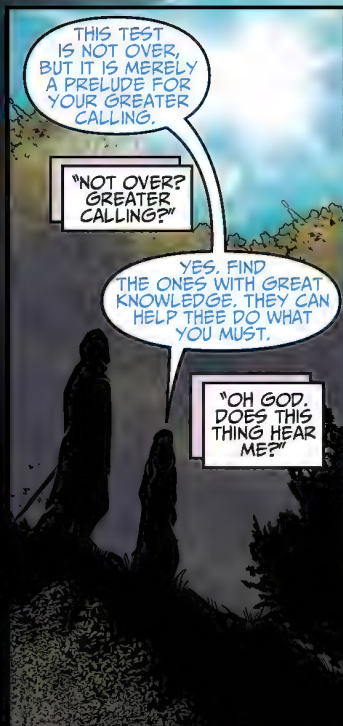
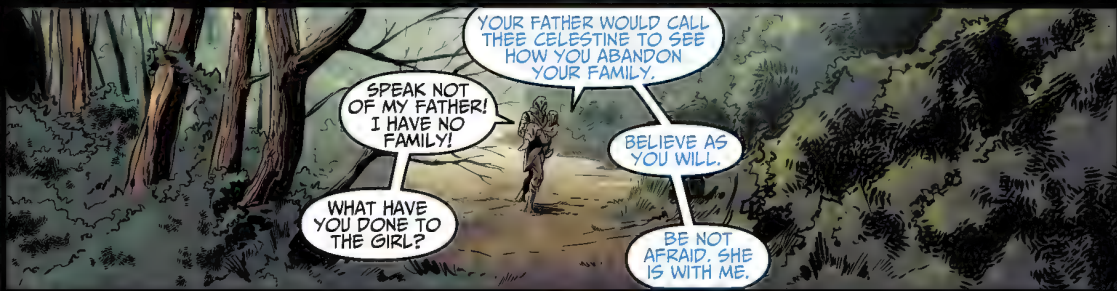
ALL I NEED TO DO IS LOOK AT THIS LITTLE GIRL. A GIRL THE TEMPLARS WILL HAPPILY KILL TO WIELD HER 'MAGIC'. A GIRL THAT FORCED ME TO ABANDON ONE OF MY OWN.

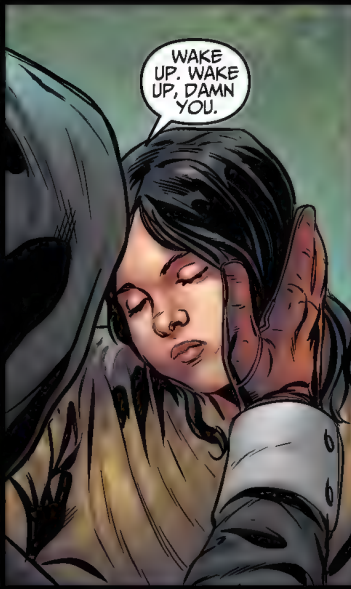
"QUERRY'S GONE. DOES THIS MEAN JOSEPH LIED TO THE TEMPLARS? THAT HE REALLY IS SETTING THEM UP?"

"ALL HOPE ABANDON..." OR THE DEVIL IS NOT AS BLACK AS HE IS PAINTED? WHICH IS IT, YOU ITALIAN BASTARD?

"OR IS STODDARD WRONG AND DOROTHY ISN'T THE MISSION? WHAT IF QUERRY'S STILL ALIVE? WHAT IF SHE DOES KNOW WHERE THE REAL ARTEFACT IS?"

YOU SEEK YOUR ANSWERS IN THE WRONG PLACE.





WAKE UP. WAKE UP, DAMN YOU.



NEVER MIND THAT FOR NOW.

GOODMAN STODDARD... WHERE ARE WE? WHERE IS DAVID? GOODY QUERRY?



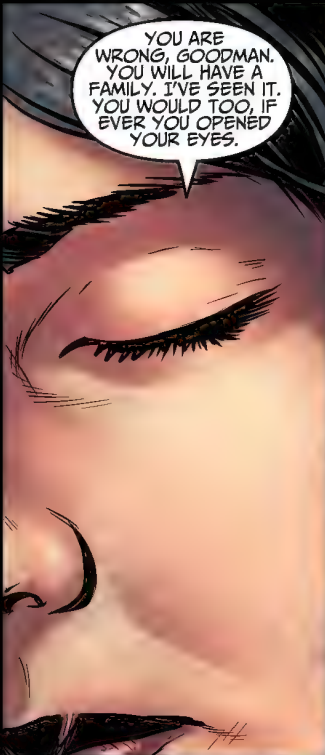
WHAT IS THIS CONSUS? HAS HE SPOKEN WITH THE TEMPLARS? DO THEY KNOW HE EXISTS?

GOODMAN? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH DAVID?

TELL ME!



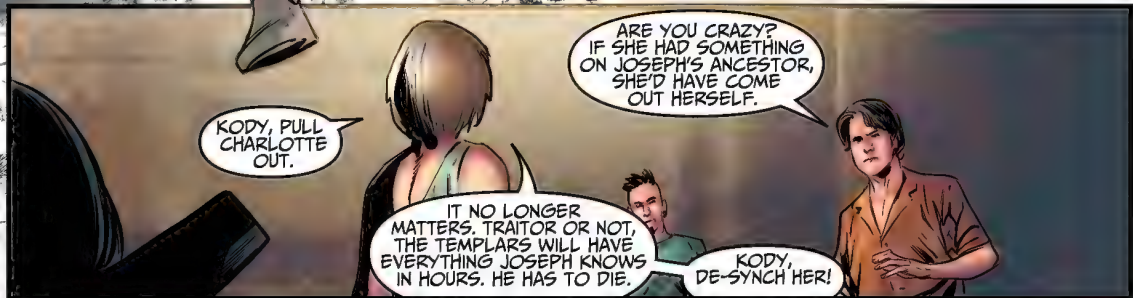
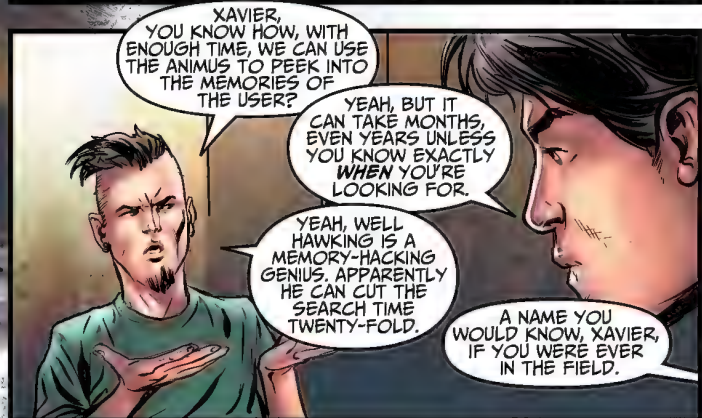
YOU LEFT HIM. I KNEW YOU WOULD. I KNEW IT. I LIKED THEM. THEY CARED FOR ME.

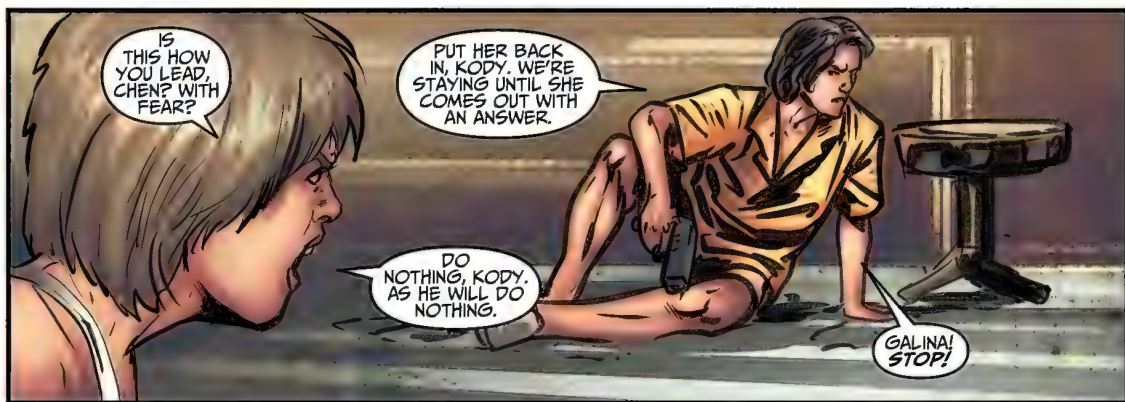
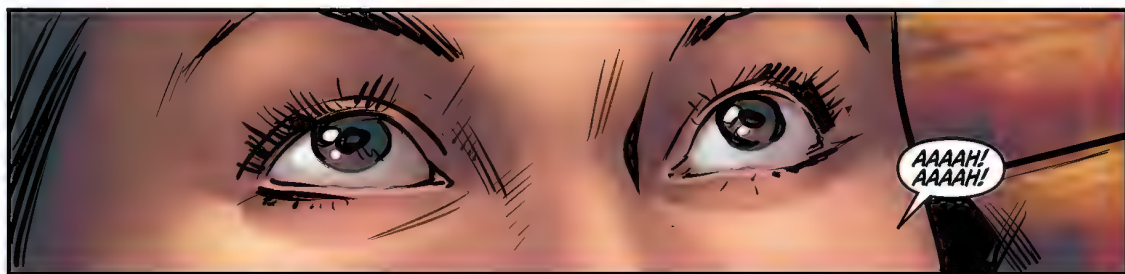


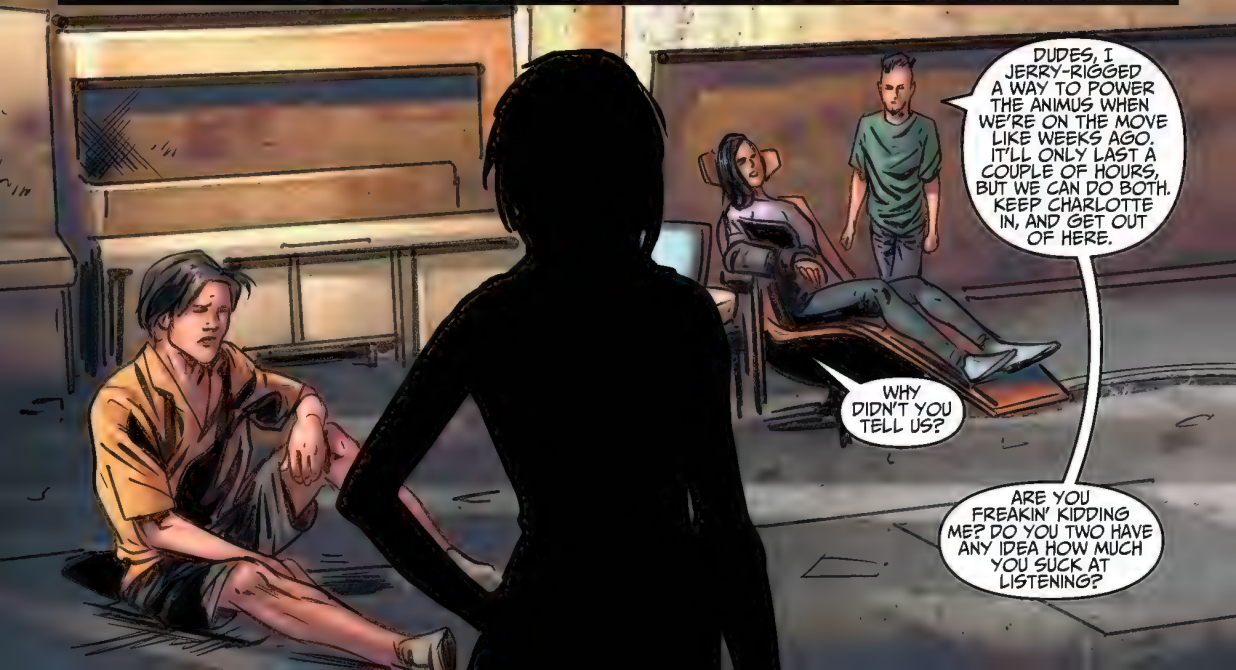
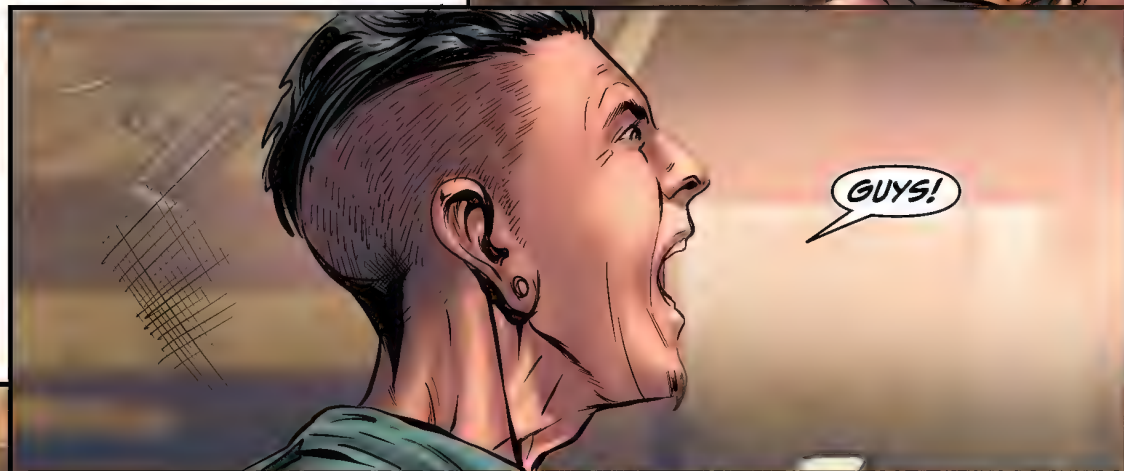
YOU ARE WRONG, GOODMAN. YOU WILL HAVE A FAMILY. I'VE SEEN IT. YOU WOULD TOO, IF EVER YOU OPENED YOUR EYES.

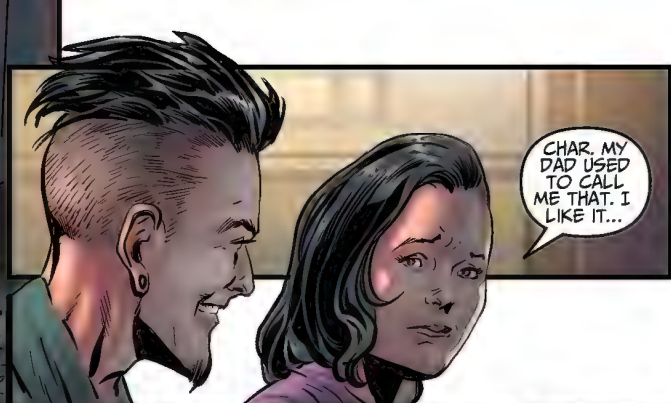


YOU WILL HAVE TO BE BETTER.











ONE BROTHER
ALONE. ALL IS WELL.



THE FLAG
IS UP.

BUT
STILL...



IS IT SAFE
TO GO DOWN,
GOODMAN? I'M
SO TIRED.

YOU TELL
ME, YOU CLAIM
TO KNOW WHAT'S
TO COME.

IT
DOES NOT
WORK LIKE
THAT.

OF
COURSE
NOT.



ALL
SEEMS WELL.
STAY LOW UNTIL
THEY RESPOND TO
MY SIGNAL.

WAIT...



TEMPLARS!

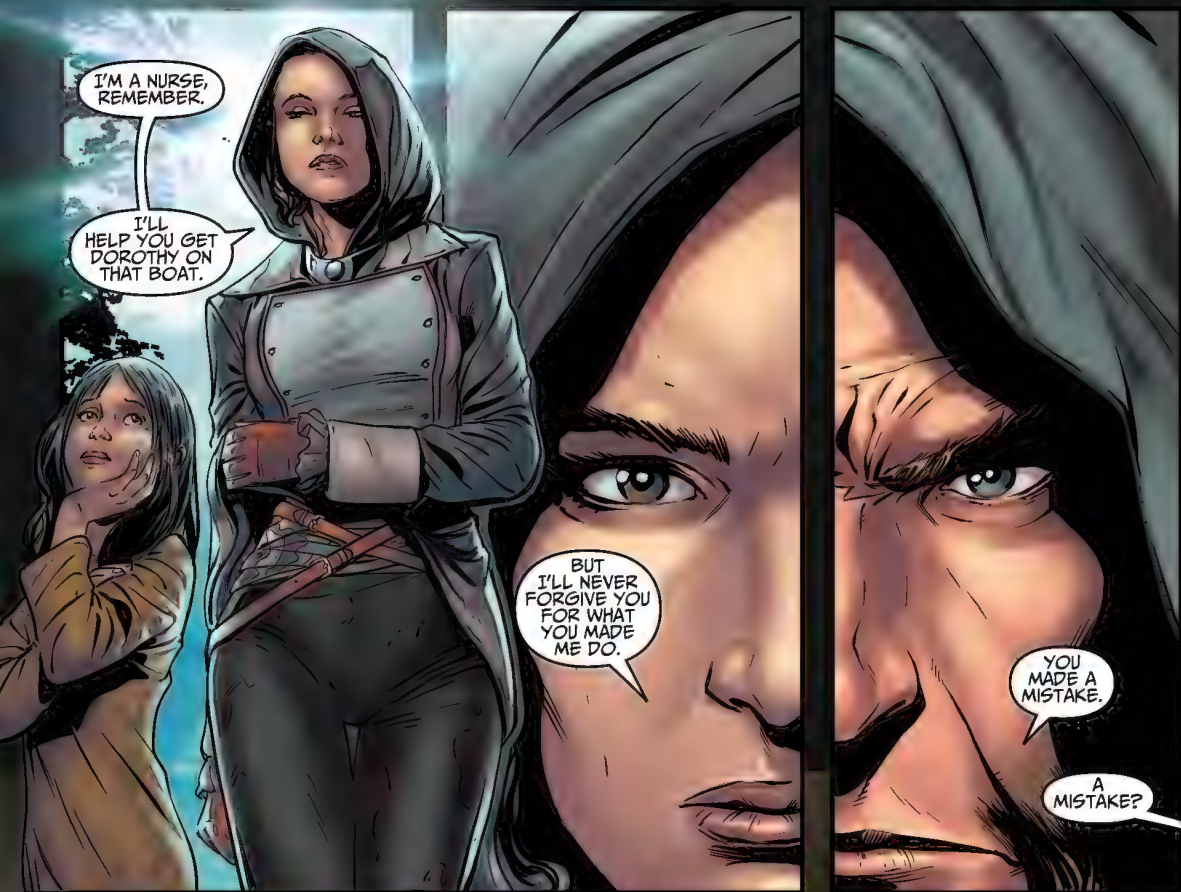


STAY
DOWN.

SNAP







I'M A NURSE,
REMEMBER.

I'LL
HELP YOU GET
DOROTHY ON
THAT BOAT.

BUT
I'LL NEVER
FORGIVE YOU
FOR WHAT
YOU MADE
ME DO.

YOU
MADE A
MISTAKE.

A
MISTAKE?



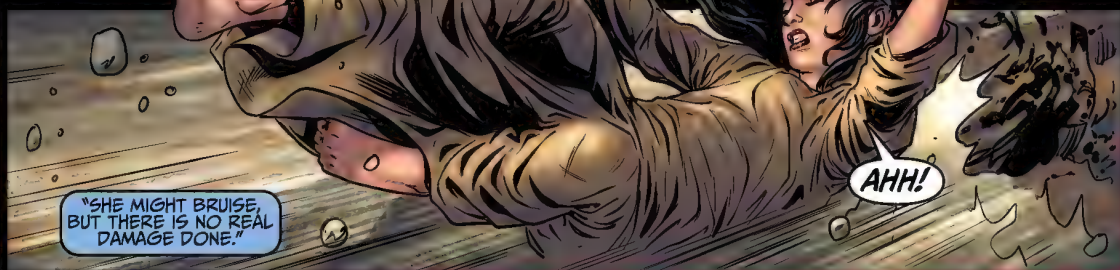
"WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU DOING?"

OOF!

THE
WATCHWORDS,
THE MEN AT THE
DOCK, THE TEMPLARS
FINDING THE BOAT?
YOU'RE NOT
INCOMPETENT,
YOU'RE A
TRAITOR.

THE WOMAN
YOU PRETENDED TO
BE? SHE COULD NEVER
HAVE SURVIVED BACK IN
THAT FEN. YOU ESCAPED
BECAUSE PARRIS
LET YOU.

WHAT WAS
YOUR PRICE?
THE BOY'S
LIFE?





I MEAN, YES, THERE WAS A BETRAYER, BUT IT WAS YOU, GOODMAN.

"WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, STODDARD?"



LIAR!

WHY LIE WHEN THE TRUTH IS A SHARPER BLADE?

WE LET HER GO BECAUSE YOU DID YOUR TASK WELL, GOODMAN. YOU MADE HER BELIEVE IN YOUR CAUSE ABOVE ALL ELSE.



UHH!

WHEN SHE TURNED HER BACK ON THE BOY, I KNEW SHE WOULD FIND YOU OR DIE TRYING.

WE SIMPLY FOLLOWED HER TO YOUR LITTLE BOAT... AND THE GIRL.



HELP!
HELP ME!

YOU ARE SKILLED, GOODMAN. I SUSPECT YOU HAVE FERRETED OUT MANY OF THE GIRL'S SECRETS. SECRETS EVEN SHE KNOWS NOT.

YOU ARE AN ASSASSIN. YOU *THINK* YOU WILL NOT SPEAK THEM. NO MATTER WHAT I DO.



IT IS FORTUNATE THEN THAT I AM A MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS.

"OH MY GOD... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?"

TO BE CONTINUED...

ASSASSIN'S CREED

TRIAL BY FIRE

PART 3 OF 5



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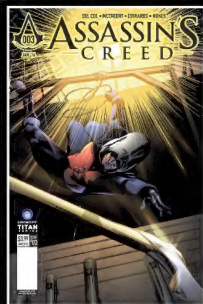
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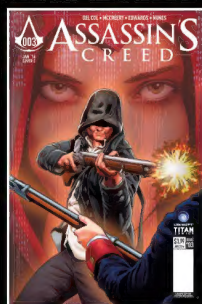
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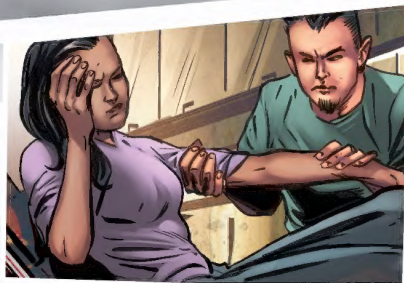
ON SALE JANUARY

ISSUE



INTO THE DEEP...

With time running out, the Assassin cell splits up as Xavier and Galina prepare to breach the Abstergo stronghold where Joseph is being held. But something feels off to Charlotte; did she really find what they were looking for in Tom's memories? When Kody puts her back in the Animus, it all becomes clear... Xavier and Galina are heading into terrible danger!



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SALEM

✦ LIFE IN THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY WAS HARD,
AND LIFE AS A PURITAN WAS EVEN HARDER...

In 1692, a mysterious form of hysteria overtook the inhabitants of several sleepy Massachusetts towns. The circumstances that hysteria was borne out of go a little way to explaining how so many people lost their lives, and they are far from simple...

In the years leading up to 1692, Salem Town and the surrounding villages had been in a state of near constant turmoil. Despite being issued a charter in 1629, after the establishment of the colony, that would allow them to practice their Puritan beliefs, the people of Salem

were subject to numerous changes in government. These were influenced in large part by the shifting politics and civil war taking place in Britain, which had a significant impact on migration to the colonies.

The increasingly insular members of the Massachusetts colony were well-suited to self-governance, however, and elected their own leaders who supported and reflected their religious beliefs. It was a controlling environment. Puritanism was an extreme form of Protestantism, with origins in Calvinism, that believed wholeheartedly in Original

✦ Sin. However, where Calvinists believed they could seek salvation through good deeds, and therefore absolve themselves of sin, Puritans instead believed they were the chosen people of God, and were therefore required to live by the teachings of the scriptures and set an example for the heathen ways of the Anglican and Catholic churches. Church attendance was absolutely mandatory, and Puritan life revolved around the meetinghouse, with villagers and townspeople required to attend services lasting two to three hours every Wednesday and Sunday. This atmosphere of fear and control was fed by the Puritan belief in the Devil, and in witchcraft. It was an accepted fact of life that the Devil existed, and was constantly trying to tempt the Puritans into blasphemous behavior.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony was also subjected to devastatingly cold winters, and the land was not ideally suited to farming. Crop yields were poor, food was scarce, and the long winters were dangerous, not least due to increasingly frequent attacks by Native Americans on British settlements along the East Coast. With internal fighting, and external threats, life in the colony was fraught with anxiety and paranoia.

However, over time, increased prosperity in Salem Town, a port engaged in trade, shipbuilding and fishing, resulted in a wealthy merchant class, who had little in common with the poorer farmers who lived in Salem Village and other outlying settlements. This led to simmering

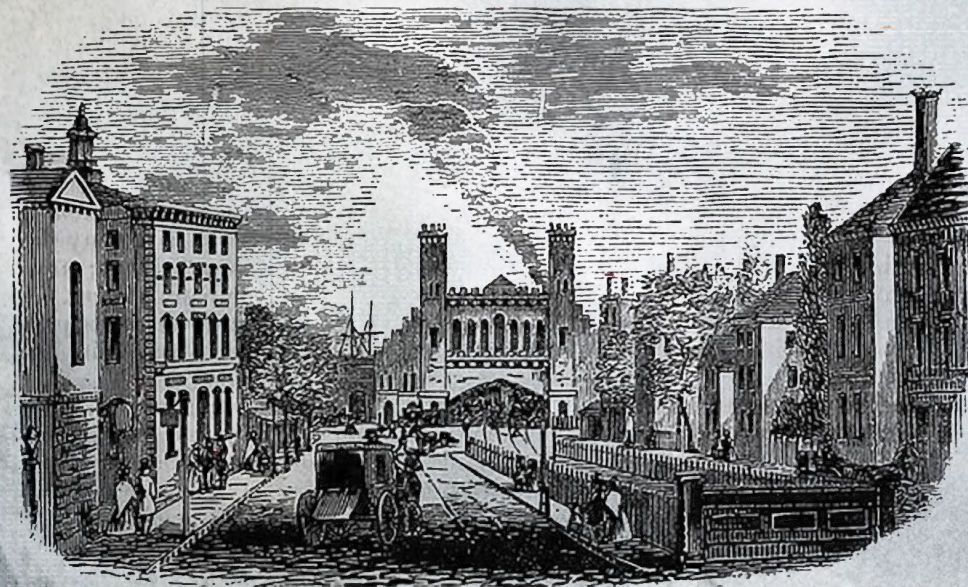


Site of the courthouse where the trials took place.

tensions between the town and village, as the villagers believed they were due greater autonomy. However, they were not united in this belief, as around half of the villagers remained loyal to the town and wished to remain affiliated with it. The issue was couched in religious terms; the villagers seeking autonomy felt that the thriving economy of Salem Town made it too "individualistic", which was directly opposed to the communalism that a Puritan belief system called for. Eventually, Salem Village was allowed its own church, and was given the freedom to employ and support their own minister – one named Samuel Parris.

This was not enough to quell the mutterings of the discontented, though, and other issues began to come to light. Factions developed within factions, and tensions rose further still. When the villagers refused to support Parris and his family, bitterness and anger flourished on all sides...

TO BE CONTINUED...





EMPIRE